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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/611,597	07/07/2000	Seiji Kobayashi	SONY-T0864	6504

22850 7590 02/08/2005

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EXAMINER	
BATTAGLIA, MICHAEL V	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2652	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/611,597	KOBAYASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael V Battaglia	2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 October 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-12,14-21 and 23-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4,5,8-12,14,15,18-20,23,24 and 26-28* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *6,7,16,17,21 and 25* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *07 July 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informality. On lines 5-7 of claim 11, replacing "long enough such that a local change to the pit row or mark row will not affect the main data from being reproduced correctly such that the sub-data will be correctly reproduced" with -a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation-- is suggested so that claim 11 is amended to match the amendments made to independent claims 1, 10, 20 and 28 and to go along with the arguments presented in the Remarks/Arguments section of the amendment filed October 26, 2004. Appropriate correction is required. Claim 11 will be interpreted with as if the suggested amendment had been made in the prior art rejections below. If claim 11 was purposefully unamended, the prior art and 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections set forth in the previous Office action still apply.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al (hereafter Yamamoto) (US 6,078,552).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

In regard to claim 1, Yamamoto discloses an information recording apparatus in which in an information recording apparatus for recording main data (Fig. 1, element D1) by forming a pit row or a mark row to an information recording medium by irradiating the information recording medium with a beam for recording, said information recording apparatus comprising: first modulating signal generating means (Fig. 1, element 14) for generating a first modulating signal in correspondence with the pit row or the mark row; second modulating means (Fig. 1, elements 8A, 12, and 13) for generating a second modulating signal by modulating the first modulating signal by sub-data (Fig. 1, element SC1 and Col. 4, lines 4-12) such that a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row is locally changed in accordance with a logical level of the sub-data (Figs. 2 and 3; Col. 2, lines 2-5; and Col. 4, lines 40-47); and beam modulating means (Fig. 1, element 8B) for modulating the beam for recording by the second modulating signal; wherein the second modulating means generates the second modulating signal by allocating one bit of the sub-data to the pit row or the mark row, the pit row or mark row having a predetermined minimum length to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code

(see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Fig. 15 and Col. 16, lines 58-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 4, lines 18-20; Col. 11, lines 14-15; and Col. 14, lines 48-50 and 61-63). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Fig. 13, element DC1 and Col. 11, lines 64-65). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code.

In regard to claim 10, Yamamoto discloses an information recording method, wherein in an information recording method for recording main data (Fig. 1, element D1) by forming a pit row or a mark row on an information recording medium (Fig. 1, element 2) by irradiating the information recording medium with a beam for recording, said information recording method comprising: a step of generating a second modulating signal (Fig. 1, element S1) by modulating a first modulating signal (Fig. 1, element S2) in correspondence with a pit row or a mark row by sub-data (Fig. 1, element SC1 and Col. 4, lines 4-12) in accordance with a logical level of the sub-data such that a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row is locally changed (Figs. 2 and 3; Col. 2, lines 2-5; and Col. 4, lines 40-47); and a step of modulating the beam for recording by the second modulating signal and irradiating the information recording medium with the modulated beam for recording (Co. 4, lines 54-60), wherein the second modulating signal is generated by allocating one bit of the sub-data to the pit row or the mark row, the pit row or mark row having a minimum predetermined length to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of

the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Fig. 15 and Col. 16, lines 58-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 4, lines 18-20; Col. 11, lines 14-15; and Col. 14, lines 48-50 and 61-63). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Fig. 13, element DC1 and Col. 11, lines 64-65). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code.

In regard to claim 11, Yamamoto discloses an information recording medium (Fig. 1, element 2), recorded with main data (Fig. 1, element D1) by a pit row or a mark row, recorded by a process comprising recording sub-data (Fig. 1, element SC1 and Col. 4, lines 4-12) by a local change of a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row and one bit of the sub-data is allocated to the bit row or the mark row (Figs. 2 and 3; Col. 2, lines 2-5; and Col. 4, lines 40-47), the pit row or mark row having a predetermined minimum length to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Fig. 15 and Col. 16, lines 58-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 4, lines 18-20; Col. 11, lines 14-15; and Col. 14, lines 48-50 and 61-63). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Fig. 13, element DC1 and Col. 11, lines 64-65). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code.

In regard to claims 2 and 12, Yamamoto '552 discloses that the predetermined minimum length is a length of 1 mm or more (Fig. 15).

3. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11, 14, 15, 18-20, 23, 24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Inazawa et al (hereafter Inazawa) (US 6,587,948).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

In regard to claim 1, Inazawa discloses an information recording apparatus in which in an information recording apparatus for recording main data (Fig. 5, element D1) by forming a pit row or a mark row to an information recording medium (Fig. 5, element 42) by irradiating the information recording medium with a beam (Fig. 5, element L) for recording, said information recording apparatus comprising: first modulating signal generating means (Fig. 5, elements 51 and 52) for generating a first modulating signal (Fig. 5, element D3) in correspondence with the pit row or the mark row; second modulating means (Fig. 5 and 10, element 47) for generating a second modulating signal (Fig. 5, element S3) by modulating the first modulating signal by sub-data (Figs. 5 and 10, element SC1) such that a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row is locally changed in accordance with a logical level of the sub-data (Fig. 15B and Col. 16, line 65-Col. 17, line 7); and beam modulating means (Fig. 5, element 46) for modulating the beam for recording by the second modulating signal; wherein the second modulating means generates the second modulating signal by allocating one bit of the sub-data to the pit row or the mark row, the pit row or mark row having

a predetermined minimum length to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Figs. 16 and 17 and Col. 13, lines 60-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 8, lines 40-43 and Col. 13, lines 4-14). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Col. 13, lines 60-64 and Col. 18, lines 45-47). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code. In addition, the area to which one bit of sub-data is allocated is detected by the optical observation of the optical system of Figs. 16 and 17.

In regard to claim 4, Inazawa discloses that the second modulating means comprises: binary coefficient row generating means for generating a binary coefficient row with the first modulating signal as a reference (Fig. 10, element 63); disturbing means for generating a disturbing signal by disturbing the sub-data by the binary coefficient row (Fig. 10, element 64); and signal modulating means for generating the second modulating signal by modulating the first modulating signal by the disturbing signal (Fig. 10, element 77).

In regard to claim 5, Inazawa discloses that the binary coefficient row is a binary coefficient row of M series (Fig. 10, element 63).

In regard to claim 8, Inazawa discloses that the binary coefficient row generating means initializes the binary coefficient row at a constant period with the first modulating signal as a reference (Fig. 10, element 62).

In regard to claim 9, Inazawa discloses that the first modulating means generates the first modulating signal by ciphering the main data (Fig. 5, elements 51 and 52) and the sub-data is data necessary for deciphering the main data (Col. 9, lines 11-12).

In regard to claim 10, Inazawa discloses an information recording method, wherein in an information recording method for recording main data (Fig. 5, element D1) by forming a pit row or a mark row on an information recording medium (Fig. 5, element 42) by irradiating the information recording medium with a beam (Fig. 5, element L) for recording, said information recording method comprising: a step of generating a second modulating signal (Fig. 5, element S3) by modulating a first modulating signal (Fig. 5, element D3) in correspondence with a pit row or a mark row by sub-data (Figs. 5 and 10, element SC1) in accordance with a logical level of the sub-data such that a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row is locally changed (Figs. 5 and 10, element 47; Fig. 15B; and Col. 16, line 65-Col. 17, line 7); and a step of modulating the beam for recording by the second modulating signal and irradiating the information recording medium with the modulated beam for recording (Fig. 5, element 46), wherein the second modulating signal is generated by allocating one bit of the sub-data to the pit row or the mark row, the pit row or mark row having a minimum predetermined length to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Figs. 16 and 17 and Col. 13, lines 60-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 8, lines 40-43 and Col. 13, lines 4-14). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Col. 13, lines 60-64). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-

data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code. In addition, the area to which one bit of sub-data is allocated is detected by the optical observation of the optical system of Figs. 16 and 17.

In regard to claim 11, Inazawa discloses an information recording medium (Fig. 5, element 42), recorded with main data (Fig. 5, element D1) by a pit row or a mark row, recorded by a process comprising recording sub-data (Figs. 5 and 10, element SC1) by a local change of a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row and one bit of the sub-data is allocated to the bit row or the mark row (Figs. 5 and 10, element 47; Fig. 15B; and Col. 16, line 65-Col. 17, line 7), the pit row or mark row having a predetermined minimum length to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Figs. 16 and 17 and Col. 13, lines 60-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 8, lines 40-43 and Col. 13, lines 4-14). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Col. 13, lines 60-64). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code. In addition, the area to which one bit of sub-data is allocated is detected by the optical observation of the optical system of Figs. 16 and 17.

In regard to claim 14, Inazawa discloses that the local change is formed in accordance with a disturbing signal disturbing the sub-data by a binary coefficient row (Fig. 10, element 63).

In regard to claim 15, Inazawa discloses that the binary coefficient row is a binary coefficient row of M series (Fig. 10, element 63).

In regard to claim 18, Inazawa discloses that the binary coefficient row is initialized at a constant period with the pit row or the mark row as a reference (Fig. 10, element 62).

In regard to claim 19, Inazawa discloses that the main data is ciphered (Fig. 5, elements 51 and 52) and recorded and the sub-data is data necessary for deciphering the main data (Col. 9, lines 11-12).

In regard to claim 20, Inazawa discloses an information reproducing apparatus, wherein in an information reproducing apparatus for irradiating an information recording medium (Fig. 16, element 26) recorded with main data (Fig. 16, element D1) by a pit row or a mark row with a laser beam and receiving a return beam to thereby reproduce the main data, said information reproducing apparatus comprising: reproduced signal generating means (Fig. 16, element P) for receiving the return beam and generating a reproduced signal (Fig. 16, element RF), a signal level of which is changed in accordance with the pit row or the mark row; main decoding means (Fig. 16, elements 85, 86, and 88) for decoding the main data from the reproduced signal; sampling means (Fig. 17, element 97) for sampling the reproduced signal and outputting a sampling signal; and sub decoding means (Fig. 16, element 28 and Fig. 17, element 91) for reproducing sub-data (Fig. 17, element SC1) recorded by a local change in a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row by repeating to integrate the sampling signal for a predetermined time period (Fig. 11I and Fig. 15B); wherein the sub decoding means is set with an integrating time period in correspondence with one bit of the sub-data as a time period by which the pit row or mark row have a minimum size to which one bit of sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Figs. 16 and 17 and Col. 13, lines 60-64). It is noted the main

data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 8, lines 40-43 and Col. 13, lines 4-14). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Col. 13, lines 60-64). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code. In addition, the area to which one bit of sub-data is allocated is detected by the optical observation of the optical system of Figs. 16 and 17. It is also noted that the detection unit (Fig. 16, element 28) is the same as the detection unit (Fig. 17, element 91). The adder (Fig. 17, element 100) and accumulator (Fig. 17, element 101) form an accumulative adder (Col. 15, lines 9-10) that integrates the sampling signal (Fig. 17, element RX) over a predetermined time period, controlled by the synchronization pattern detecting circuit (Fig. 17, element 93), in correspondence with one bit of the sub-data that is used to find the value of the sub-data (Fig. 17, element SC1).

In regard to claim 23, Inazawa discloses that the information reproducing apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprises a binary coefficient row generating means for generating a binary coefficient row with the reproduced signal as a reference (Fig. 17, element 95); wherein the sub decoding means integrates the sampling signal in accordance with the binary coefficient row (Fig. 17, element 99).

In regard to claim 24, Inazawa discloses that the binary coefficient row is a binary coefficient row of M series (Fig. 17, element 95).

In regard to claim 26, Inazawa discloses that the binary coefficient row generating means initializes the binary coefficient row at a constant period with the reproduced signal as a reference (Fig. 17, element 94).

In regard to claim 27, Inazawa discloses that the main decoding means deciphers the main data based on the sub-data (Fig. 16, elements 30 and 88 and Col. 9, lines 11-12).

In regard to claim 28, Inazawa discloses an information reproducing method, wherein in an information reproducing method for irradiating an information recording medium (Fig. 5, element 42) recorded with main data (Fig. 16, element D1) by a pit row or a mark row with a laser beam and receiving a return beam to thereby reproduce the main data, said information reproducing method comprising: a step of decoding the main data from a reproduced signal (Fig. 16, element RF) a signal level of which is changed in accordance with the pit row or the mark row provided by receiving the return beam (Fig. 11I; Fig. 15B; Fig. 16, elements P, 85, 86, and 88); and a step of reproducing sub-data (Fig. 17, element SC1) recorded by a local change in a pit or a mark of the pit row or the mark row by repeating to integrate a sampling signal provided by sampling the reproduced signal for a predetermined time period (Fig. 11I; Fig. 15B; Fig. 16, element 28; and Fig. 17, element 91); wherein an integrating time period in correspondence with one bit of the sub-data is set to a time period by which the pit row or mark row have a minimum size to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated that is a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (see notes below) and a length by which the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated can be detected by optical observation (Figs. 16 and 17 and Col. 13, lines 60-64). It is noted the main data of Yamamoto is correctly reproduced by an error correction code (Col. 8, lines 40-43 and Col. 13, lines 4-14). It is further noted that sub-data as correctly reproduced (Col. 13, lines 60-64). Therefore, the predetermined minimum length of the pit or mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated is inherently a length by which the sub-data is correctly reproduced in a case in which the main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code. In addition, the area to

which one bit of sub-data is allocated is detected by the optical observation of the optical system of Figs. 16 and 17. It is also noted that the detection unit (Fig. 16, element 28) is the same as the detection unit (Fig. 17, element 91). The adder (Fig. 17, element 100) and accumulator (Fig. 17, element 101) form an accumulative adder (Col. 15, lines 9-10) that integrates the sampling signal (Fig. 17, element RX) over a predetermined time period, controlled by the synchronization pattern detecting circuit (Fig. 17, element 93), in correspondence with one bit of the sub-data that is used to find the value of the sub-data (Fig. 17, element SC1).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 21 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed October 26, 2004 with respect to Inazawa and Yamamoto have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Inazawa and Yamamoto meet the claim limitations as specified in the rejections above. Applicant argues that Inazawa and Yamamoto do not specifically disclose or suggest a predetermined minimum length for a pit row or a mark row to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated. However, the claimed predetermined minimum length to which one bit of sub-data is allocated is interpreted as the minimum length by which both (a) correctly reproduction of the sub-data when main data is correctly reproduced by an error correction code and (b) detection by optical observation of the area to which one bit of the sub-data is allocated become possible. In both Inazawa and Yamamoto, both (a) and (b) occur, as

described in the claim rejections above, and are therefore possible. As a result, in both Inazawa and Yamamoto, one bit of sub-data is inherently allocated to a pit or mark row having a predetermined minimum length by which (a) and (b) occur.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael V Battaglia whose telephone number is (703) 305-4534. The examiner can normally be reached on 5-4/9 Plan with 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T Nguyen can be reached on (703) 305-9687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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2/7/05